

tram had died (about 1830), Melchior joined his brother Sulpice at Bonn, where Melchior, in the prosecution of his favoured art-studies, concluded his life in serene quiet and contentment.

German Art.—Statue of Madlle. Rachel.—The works of Overbeck have been increased of late by some important additions. His "Conversion of St. Thomas," is intended for London. The series of fourteen pictures of the Passion, which have to be published as coloured engravings, next call his attention. The engraver is Bartolomeo Benvenuto. The picture also which Pio IX. has ordered of Overbeck, for Monte Cavallo, is in a fair way of progress.—A model for a statue of Madlle. Rachel has been made by M. Aenger, at Berlin. It will be executed in marble, by order of the king. The actress is represented in Grecian costume, the diadem-covered head bent forward in contemplation, and the whole bespeaking that nobleness and ideality which characterise the original.

Munich.—Academy of Fine Arts.—After an interruption of three years, the Academy announces an exhibition of works of living artists, to begin on the 25th of August, and to last two months. Paintings, sculpture, cartoons, architectural drawings, and (superior) lithographs are admissible; and for works sent in by request of the Academy, the freight is paid, as is the case in most German Art-Union and Academies.—**Glass Painting.**—One of the former legislatures having rescinded the grant hitherto paid to this renowned establishment, there was some danger that it would cease altogether. M. Aimmüller, head of the Royal Glass-painting Commission, has, however, made an offer to continue the working of the establishment if a subsidy of 4,000 fl. (340l.!) should be granted to him annually, which modest proposal is likely to be accepted.

SOMETHING CRITICAL.

THE specimen of street architecture at Manchester shows that the provincial shopocracy are determined not to lag behind their metropolitan brethren. Besides displaying spirited liberality in an unusual degree, the design is marked by an attention to architectural logic, which is sadly disregarded here in town, since, instead of presenting a continuous surface of glass without any apparent support to the rest of the front, the ground-floor exhibits substantial construction, and the whole elevation is well and firmly put together. Still there are one or two matters which do not seem to have been quite so carefully considered as they might have been. Now, though such arrangement would have been contrary to rule, it would, I conceive, have been more judicious to have reversed the sequence of the orders, making the lower and loftier one Corinthian instead of Doric, and employing the latter for the third story. So disposed, the richer order would have been approximated to the eye, consequently the capitals and details would have been more distinctly seen, especially as that first-floor order is somewhat loftier than the others. Such arrangement would, too, have been in perfect accordance with the principle of bestowing greater ornamentation on the windows, and other features of a first-floor, than on those above it; besides which, the characteristic proportions of the several orders would have been preserved; whereas now the Doric columns are of considerably more slender proportions than the Corinthian ones, so that the latter look comparatively stumpy, and the others lanky.

I am further of opinion that the general effect would have been greatly better, had the entablatures over the smaller columns to the windows been omitted, and these columns been carried up as high as the window-transoms, and the mouldings of the arches made to spring immediately from their capitals; whereby not only would some degree of fritter have been avoided, but also the disagreeable effect (highly disagreeable, at least to my eye) occasioned by the columns being shorter than the head of the aperture beneath the arch, to the interruption of continuity of lines and levels.

ZETA.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENT OF THE METROPOLIS.

THE inhabitants of London are suffering from bad air; a very expensive, but limited supply of impure water; imperfect drainage; insufficient laws for the removal of nuisances and prevention of diseases; dwellings, especially those of the poor, built without proper regard to the health of the inhabitants; up to this time, also from the exclusion of light, by the Window Tax, and from the shocking practice of burying the dead among the living, in overfilled burial grounds.

The Metropolitan Sanitary Association was instituted in February, 1850, to endeavour to obtain, through Legislative enactments, remedies for these evils. Since the institution of this association, the Metropolitan Extramural Interments Act has been passed, and the abolition of the Window Tax has been declared.

Much, however, has to be done. An abundant and constant supply of pure water, at a small expense, must be procured for every house in London—a good Buildings Act must be passed—the drainage must be made perfect—filth and nuisances must be removed—the origin of all diseases, where possible, must be prevented, and provision be made to arrest the course of those which are infectious.

The committee of the association give their valuable time to carrying out the designs of the institution, but they incur much expense in the hire of committee-room—rooms for public meetings—the salary of a secretary—advertisements—printing reports, and other publications,—and for messengers, stationery, &c.; and it is but right that the public, who are to enjoy the benefit of their success, should contribute to the funds which are required in endeavouring to obtain it.

REFUGE FOR THE FOLLOWERS OF SCIENCE.

SOME time back I saw in your pages an observation encouraging the hope that the establishment of a benevolent institution for aged and unfortunate members of the civil professions connected with science might be contemporaneous with the successful development of the scheme of our literary friends, and as I live so near the spot selected for the literary asylum or college (or whatever it may be termed), my anxiety for the perfecting of the object alluded to has considerably increased.

Some years ago—about eight years—I did make an effort to get a few friends together with this view, but the vortex of 1844 or 1845 swallowed up the little help I could get from engineers and surveyors, and my endeavours were thus smothered in their birth. But since the time I refer to, many men have become rich and some poor and destitute, and it is not improbable that, with your assistance among the architectural and building fraternity, a benevolent fellowship may be now started.

If *Steepleage*, from its having been selected as the site of the Literary Refuge, should be deemed a good place for a like asylum for scientific men—such as architects, civil and mechanical engineers, surveyors, &c. &c.—I shall be glad to contribute any personal services as well as my quota to the funds.

J. BAILEY DENTON.

THE IRON TRADE.—Common qualities of iron, rods and bars, are notoriously being sold at rates varying from 5s. to 15s. per ton below the nominal prices, and other descriptions show a still wider range: sheets as far as 20s. to 25s. In pig iron there is an unusual variation of 20s. per ton, between the extreme qualities; and, generally, a decided giving way in price has taken place during the last month. The interests of South Staffordshire appear likely to be injuriously affected by the production of vast quantities of inferior metal, while quality is altogether disregarded. In some instances every other consideration has been so far abandoned but that of cheapness, that pigs are now made and sold in this district scarcely realising the price of common brands in Glasgow, and certainly below them in value.—*Birmingham Paper.*

IRISH ARCHITECTURAL AND OTHER WORKS.

THE Dublin Graving Dock, lately commenced, will, it is considered, circulate from 80,000l. to 100,000l. among the artisans of the metropolis.

The old Lunatic Asylum at Cork is undergoing a course of alterations for the purpose of its conversion into a cavalry barracks.

A new workhouse is to be erected at Clonmel, according to the drawings of the architect to the Poor-Law Commissioners.

Two new churches are about being erected at Westford by the Catholic Church Committee, and proposals are being received for the erection of the walls of same.

The amount of expenditure for the contract works at Maynooth College was 23,500l.; for drains and excavations, 1,775l.; for extra works, 834l.; incidents, 25l.; besides the sum of 5,728l. for alterations, additional accommodation, and maintenance of the apartments of president, vice-president, professors, and resident officers' rooms, the several halls, chapels, dormitories, &c.

The Board of Public Works intend erecting new bridges at Castlenode, Carronishkeagh, Lisnaffy, and Bonamucka; also at Killumod, Carrickglass, Ballyclare, and Ballinamore, according to the drawing at the Drainage Engineer's office, Longford.

The board of guardians at Bawnboy Union, County Cavan, intend erecting a new workhouse, according to the drawings, &c. of the Poor-Law Commissioners' architect.

The board of guardians of the Tobercurry Union, county Sligo, also intend erecting a new workhouse.

The tunnel under the Blackrock-road, on the Cork and Bandon Railway, which is 1,000 yards long, has been opened. The ribs of the metal arch over the fourth and last span of the Chetwynd valley viaduct have been fixed on the piers. The superstructure, which is composed of cast and wrought iron, weighs 1,000 tons. There are four spans of 110 feet each, and the arches are at a height of 90 feet over the mail coach road.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners have caused to be rebuilt the churches of St. Nicholas and Ballymodan, in the diocese of Cork; also Ramoan and Croagh churches, in the diocese of Limerick. A sum of 2,030l. has been expended thereon. A new church has been erected at Achill by private subscription, the commissioners contributing 200l. The church of St. John at Limerick is rebuilding, and is to accommodate 1,000 persons. A church at Lismore is in progress of erection: the cost will be 1,200l., contributed by the Marchioness of Waterford. The commissioners' architect made the drawings. Grange Gorman Church, in Dublin, has been enlarged at an expense of 357l.

NASMYTH'S ABSOLUTE-SAFETY VALVE.

—Mr. Nasmyth has forwarded to us a representation of the valve already described by us at p. 273 of our current volume. The diagram appears to bear out what is there said as to its peculiarity of construction. It must be effectual in preventing the valve from getting set fast in its seat, unless, indeed, there be some extraordinary power of attraction at work, electrical or magnetic, which even the violent agitation of the water in ebullition cannot overcome. The valve, however, is spherical and one cannot readily conceive even a force of this kind to be capable of rendering such a form of valve quite fixed and immovable. The precise nature of the cause of fixture, in some cases at least, is by no means clear, and seems to require further and closer investigation; and if it should turn out that electrical or magnetic action has something to do with so dangerous an accident, it will be very easy to apply the proper remedy so as to render such a valve as Mr. Nasmyth's, even in this assumed respect, quite certain in its action. That electricity may have more to do with boiler explosions than might at first sight be supposed, the wonderful phenomena of Armstrong's hydro-electric boiler sufficiently justify us in suggesting.